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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 /053 W
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R 161440Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7728
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2091

CARACAS PLEASE PASS DEA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CI, SNAR
SUBJ: NARCOTICS: STATUS OF NCAP AND ROLE OF US CUSTOMS

REF: SANTIAGO 1240 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY'S MAIN NARCOTICS PROGRAM PRIORITY FOR FY-1977. AS SUBMITTED IN OUR NCAP LAST NOVEMBER (AIRGRAM-175), WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF A NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION CAPABILITY IN CHILEAN CUSTOMS TO HELP CORRECT MOST SERIOUS WEAKNESS IN NARCOTICS EFORCEMENT EFFORT IN CHILE. NCAP OUTLINED DETAILS OF WHAT WE HOPED TO DO, AND REQUESTED FINANCIAL GRANTS FOR INITIAL ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPPING OF A UNIT OF 25 MEN. LACK OF INDICATIONS OF DEPARTMENT'S THINKING ON NCAP PROPOSAL HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BEGIN CONVINCING GOC TO ESTABLISH THE UNIT. DESPITE GOOD WILL AND DEMONSTRATED DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH US ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, GOC AT THIS TIME DOES NOT HAVE US$100,000 ESTIMATED NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH UNIT.

2. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN CLEAR PICTURE OF ROLE US CUSTOMS WOULD BE PREPARED TO PLAY, AND ASSISTANCE IT COULD OFFER, IF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT
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UNIT WERE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CHILEAN CUSTOMS. THIS

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IS KEY FACTOR IN OUR CONSIDERATION, AND IT HAS BEEN
DISCUSSED WITH AT LEAST TWO US CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES
WHO HAVE VISITED CHILE. MOST RECENT VISIT WAS BY US
CUSTOMS SENIOR ADVISOR FRANCISCO GONZALEZ FROM QUITO.
S/NM SENT US COPY OF REPORT HE MADE TO DIRECTOR,
INTL OPS DIVISION, US CUSTOMS, DATED OCTOBER 28, 1975,
ON HIS SURVEY OF CHILEAN CUSTOMS. HE MADE CLEAR OUR NEED
FOR A STATEMENT FROM US CUSTOMS, APPROPRIATELY
COORDINATED IN WASHINGTON, OF WHAT IT WOULD BE ABLE
TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF TRAINING, ADVICE, EQUIPMENT,
ETC. BASED ON SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH US CUSTOMS,
AND KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT RESOURCES WE WOULD BE AUTHORIZED
TO COMMIT UNDER THE NCAP FROM STATE AND DEA FUNDS, WE
WOULD BE PREPARED TO BEGIN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
GOC OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIT. THIS IS OUR
HIGHEST PRIORITY INTEREST IN THE COMING YEAR.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) APPROVAL OR COMMENT UPON OUR PENDING NCAP;
(B) INDICATION OF US CUSTOMS CAPABILITIES AND
INTENTIONS IN SUPPORT OF NCAP PROPOSAL.
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